

## SAAREY JAHAN SEY ACCHA.....

If ever a country wide awarded is instituted for the most festive celebration of Independence Day, Kalimpong would surely be one of the hot favorites, if not the award.

We have done it fifty-six times before and have unfailingly showed our love and respect for our Independence this year too. The spontaneity and exuberance with which Kalimpong celebrated this year Independence Day, like every year before, was a true donator of the love, respect and patriotism that Kalimpong has towards the nation.



The two day celebration was kicked off with the Prabhat Pheri in the crisp early morning hours of the 15<sup>th</sup> of August which was followed by the garlanding ceremony at Trikon Park and the martyrs memorial by Mr. R. Karthak, Dy Magistrate and 2<sup>nd</sup> officer of Kalimpong. This was part of the program that was organized by the side of the administration.

The beating of drums and music by the school bands soon after started the festivity with the various groups from the different schools parading through town to arrive for the March Past ceremony at the Mela Ground. The national flag

was ceremoniously unfurled before a packed mela ground by Mr. Dawa Pakhrin, President of the GNLF Kalimpong branch committee & Ex. Councilor DGAHC and the salute was accepted by him.

The much awaited Independence Day football tournament finals in the second half of the day saw the SUMI beat Kumidini Homes in the mini division while the B.B. Pradhan college of Management lifted the trophy in the senior division beating Bhutan IX. Girls High School and SUMI were declared the best contingent in the March Past ceremony respectively in the girls and boys category.

The 16<sup>th</sup> of August saw several beautifully staged cultural program at male ground. The football finals for the 'B' division, 'C' division and category were played on the day with SUMI winning the 'C' division and 'B' division finals while St. Georges School Pedong won in the girls category.

With the successful and peaceful manner in which this extravanza was staged the public of Kalimpong must surely thank the Independence Day celebration committee as well as the Kalimpong civil as well as Police administration for the same.

**Editorial**

Finally Kalimpong seems to have come out of the Kohli episode. The hype, media attention and all the gossip that the entire episode generated was, to say the least, unprecedented in the history of this otherwise quaint little town. No other single incident perhaps generated so much National and International interest in Kalimpong as this one did.

The unfortunate slaying of the late charismatic GNLF leader, Mr. C.K. Pradhan, had the media focus its attentions here but that too was of a level much lower than the one in discussion here.

Now the question is- was the media attention that Kalimpong received courtesy Mr. Mahindrapal Singh Kohli, actually a boon in disguise for this town of ours or was it one that soiled the image of Kalimpong??? My reading is that Kalimpong has profited in several ways by being under the scanner of every media house of the country. For one, we are now a town which can claim immediate recollection of its name anywhere in the country. The rest of India and all those people round the world following the Hannah Foster case probably now do not have to be explained about the existence of our town. Maybe even Tony Blair and his guru George Bush now know of our existence – what more can we ask??? Kalimpong post the Kohli affair is now a truly instantly identifiable place!!

Another plus point for Kalimpong for being hosts to the hordes of pressmen from round the world was that these pressmen, forever hungry for another story, did several other stories on Kalimpong during their stay here. These stories included those on the tourism potential of the town, the history of the town, the Lolipop, Cheese and Handicraft industries of the town as well as those on the booming floriculture trade in Kalimpong. These stories will no doubt be aired on the major TV channels in times to come making Kalimpong a place which would start to creep into the National if not the International tourist maps.

I have always believed that Kalimpong has everything to woo the tourists except the advertisement needed for the tourists to know about the existence of this place. The Kohli incident has given us this advertisement. Kohli needs to be thanked for the favour that he has done us.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY THING THAT  
YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH THE  
REST OF KALIMPONG ???**

**HAVE YOUR SAY AT**

**YOUR PAGE**

Dear Sir,

This is in response to the Editorial Vol 2 Iss 3

A few decades ago, caning a child for playing truant was the school of thoughts followed by the adults of that generation. Children too, took in their own stride and didn't make an issue out of it.

Today, as parents, we need to open our eyes and look at a whole new generation. We cannot condone caning, whatever the offence. Today's child understands logic and reason. He/She is exposed to a wider perspective of their past, present and future. They are more sensitive and their ability to endure hardship seems to decrease from generation to generation.

As a teacher or as a parent, we can find many different ways to solve difficult situations. A one to one dialogue and counseling, can avoid the pain caused by caning. What seems to work very well is the deal between the two- a kind of- "you listen to me and I'll listen to you" partnership.

As far as politicians intervening in such matters, in the educational institutions, is a definitely NO! NO! Haven't they done their share of caning (the public) in all their political career.

Little do we realize the repercussions of such incidents in our childhood. Violence begets violence and so too with aggressive behaviour. A little care and understanding, will help us to stop our children from becoming the KOHLIS of the world.

Kalpana Prasad,  
East Main Road.

Dear Editor,

I feel proud of Mr. Anthony Pradhan for his playing a role of the good Samaritan by saving his neighbourhood girl from the clutches of a cheat, internationally wanted criminal and refusing to claim even a small part of the handsome bounty offered for the arrest of the criminal.

But Bharati Das's undying devotion to the criminal and her readiness to accept him if he comes back to her ( ref: When the naïve meets the naughty... The Statesman, 21 July 2004), seems awkwardly surprising. I am surprised how a lady of her maturity can fall so blindly in love with a criminal husband of one month.

This incident is a lesson for every one of us. Let not another Davis come tomorrow and make fools of us and exploit our people.

A criminal is a criminal forever and every criminal should meet judgment and the punishment of the severest kind equivalent to his/ her crime( Tit for tat without any mercy).

Thanking You,  
Naleshwar Narzari  
Bong Busty

# LIGHT YEARS BEHIND



In an age where distance is measured in light years, it has taken 57 years for 'light' to travel a distance of 10 kilometers. Kharga village is 10 km from Kalimpong town but it has taken a full 57 years after independence for it to finally get electricity.

Eight year old Smriti Rai of Kharga at long last knows what it is like to be able to read here school text book under a 60 watt electric bulb. Lanterns and candles will finally give way to electricity bulbs in Kharga after the village finally got electrified with the help of an NGO, World Vision.

Kharga, a village under the Kalimpong Block II, was without electricity up till now. Though the village was just three kilometers from the nearest electricity supply line, no efforts were made by the department to supply electricity to the village. The panchayat of the area, thought interested in

the same could do little due to lack of funds. Finally with no solution in sight, the only ray of light at the end of the otherwise dark tunnel was the World Vision. World Vision is an NGO working amongst the downtrodden people of the area. The residents of the twenty three houses of Kharga approached the NGO for help. Under the guidance of this NGO, an action group was formed for the electrification of the village. 154 villagers including 52 women worked day and night in trying to make their dreams a success. All work done by the villagers were voluntary contributions by them towards this project which took a full nine months to complete.

Speaking to Himalayan Times, Mr. Yongden Rongong a Community Development Organizer of the World Vision said, "the total cost of the project was about Rs. 1,71,000.00 out of which the villagers contributed Rs. 36,000.00 out of their

earnings. The rest of the fund requirement was met by the World Vision." Further elaborating on the work done by World Vision in the village, he said, "We are also assisting the villagers of Kharga by providing them training and expertise in the field of Animal Husbandry, Ginger and other cash crop cultivation, Driving training for the male youths of the village as well as vocational training."

The electrification project was completed early this month and was inaugurated by 90 year old M.B. Tamang who is the oldest resident of Kharga village. The electricity line to the village is connected from a transformer near the Hanuman Mandir at 15<sup>th</sup> Mile.

World Vision has earlier undertaken similar projects at Mallibasay Village and the Lepcha Village of Tashiding Busty at 4<sup>th</sup> Mile.





## Gurudev remembered

The 63<sup>rd</sup> death anniversary of the Noble prize winner Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was observed in Kalimpong earlier this month. The programme organized jointly by the Sub. Divisional Information and Cultural Affairs Department and the Milanee Club, the Milanee Club. Noble laureate was discussed. It needs to be mentioned that Gurudev Tagore had an intimate relationship with Kalimpong having stayed here on several occasions in house owned by his family. He spent some time of his life in the town and of his now famous poem Radio over telephone from The ceremony was presided by the Special Guests for the occasional Information and Cultural Officer Mr. Passang Dorjee Bal and Dr. A.K.Roy. Several cultural presentations were made by armature artists on the work of Tagore. Milanee Club the co-organizers of the programme is one of the oldest clubs in the town being established almost 80 years ago.



### O.C. PRASAD PRADHAN TRANSFERED

After a distinguished four year tenure in Kalimpong as the officer in charge of the Kalimpong station. Mr. Prasad Pradhan has been transferred out of K a l i m p o n g .

in Jorebunglows gain with Prasad Pradhan taking over the Police station

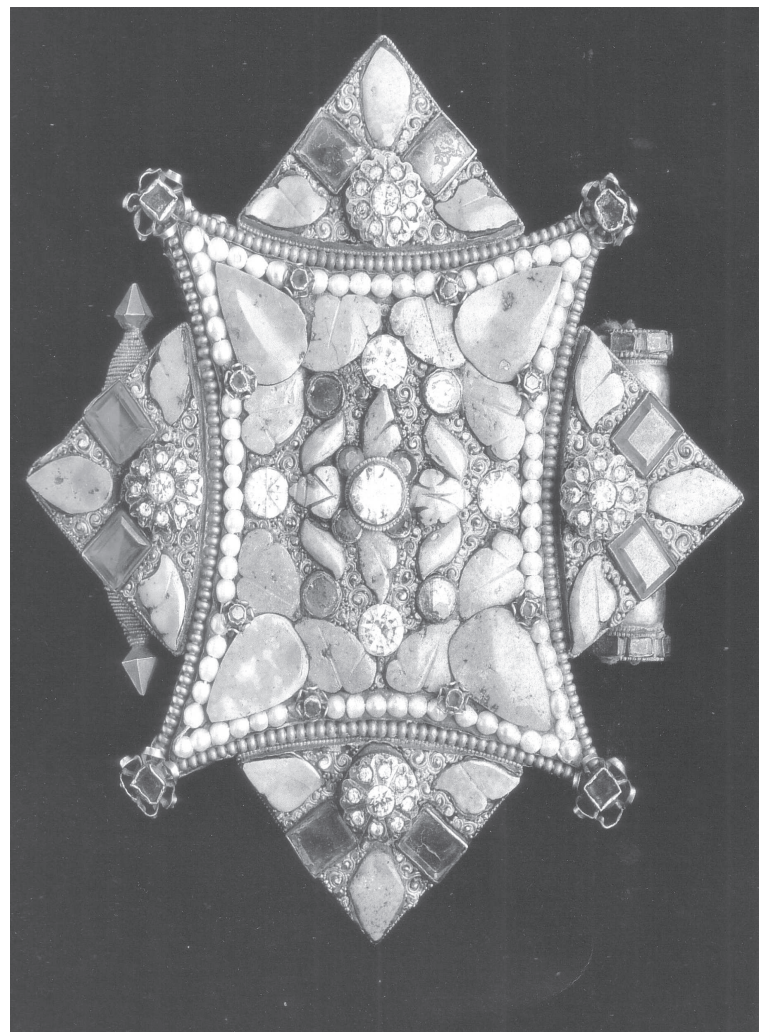


Prasad Pradhan himself to the masses with his approach to all income before his tenure in he was in the forefront of several sensational like the Tinkatary involving militants from the north East, the recovery of automatic weapons from GLO activist and the Kohli case.

Pradhan taking charge of the there.

had endured Kalimpong unbiased accidents that him. During Kalimpong, front of several Police work shootout involving militants from the north East, the recovery of automatic weapons from GLO activist and the Kohli case.

He has been replaced in Kalimpong Thana by Mr. Puran Subba who previously in the Phasideva Police station. Mr. Subba has a reputation of being a no nonsense Police officer and had acquired much goodwill in the Phasideva town due to his untiring work.



# Sci-fi centre in town

Good news for all the Sci-fi buffs of the region - Kalimpong is all set to get a Science centre in the lines of the Science City in Kolkata.

In an effort to promote tourism in Kalimpong as well as to popularize science in the area, the DGAHC has decided to construct a Science Centre in the town which is expected to be a big draw for the tourists coming into the region as well for the locals. Estimated to cost Rs. 2 crores, this project is a first of its kind in the Darjeeling Hills.

Giving details about this mega project Mr. Dawa Pakhrin, Executive Councilor of the DGAHC said, "This first of its kind project is a joint endeavor between the Central Government and the DGAHC. The DGAHC will allot Rs. 30 lakhs for the project to commence work, the total cost being expected to cross Rs. 2 crores."

As per Mr. Pakhrin, a five acre plot has been identified at Deolo Hill. The project will be constructed by the National Council of Science Museum and will be the 39<sup>th</sup> such project undertaken by the NCSM. Work for the same is expected to start after the DGAHC submits the allotted amount and survey of the area is conducted by the NCSM.



## WEE CELEBRATIONS HELD

On the eve of the independence Day 2004 a cultural extravaganza was held at the Kalimpong Town Hall. This was part of the wee celebrations that is organized by the Junior School of Kalimpong each year.

This year on the eve of Independence Day this programme was joint or ganged by the Junior School of Kalimpong in associate with the SDICO. Seventeen schools including one from Tista were involved in this celebration.

The organizers of this function also honoured several seniors teachers of Kalimpong for their out-

standing work. Those who were honoured were Mr. Tapan Pradhan, Mr. C.B. Rana, Mr. K.N. Pandey,

Mr. P.P. Pradhan, Mr. Lila Pradhan, Mrs. Lee, Mr. Wanchuk Basi, Mr. Nira Pradhan, Mrs. Chibbar, Mr. P.L. Subba, Mrs. Shova Pradhan, Mrs. Manu Lama, Mrs. Ongchu Lamu and Mr. Jyoti Sinha.



The cultural programme that followed was a treat to watch with tiny brots from the various schools putting up one of the year. The chief guest from the

programme was Col. A.K. Rai, the Ad mistreated Commanded of the Army in Kalimpong.



# P.R. Pradhan Merit Awards held

By Anup Moktan

The XIVth P.R. Pradhan Merit Awards was held at Ramkrishna Rangamanch amidst much fan fare on 7<sup>th</sup> of August. The annual awards, given to meritorious students for outstanding results in Madhyamik Examination, were organized by the SUMI Alumni Association in association with B.B Pradhan Management College and the Marda Charity Trust. The special feature of this event was the commemoration of Golden Jubilee of Everest conquest.

SUMI, known for its fan fare in any event it undertakes, left no stone unturned to make the two day event a grand success.

The semi-finals of the IXth Inter School Quiz Competition were held on the first day i.e. 6<sup>th</sup> of August. The Quiz, conducted by Quiz master Capt. P.M. Pradhan, Ms. Eugenie Sitling and Mr. Suva Pradhan, saw 14 teams participating from the sub-division, Mr. Suva Pradhan conducted the innovative "Gorkha Sankriti Round" where the participants were asked questions relevant to Nepali culture and heritage. In between, the audience was entertained by Sumian Aerobics Group, a dance Group comprising students from various schools of Kalimpong.

In the end, the teams to reach the finals were Sai Institute of Research and Education, Rockvale Academy, SUMI, St. Joseph's Convent, St. George's High School and Saptashri Gyanpeeth.

On the 7<sup>th</sup>, all eyes were on the chief Guest, Jamling Tenzing Norgay, son of the legendary Tenzing Norgay. Accompanying him were other Everesters namely Nawang Gombu, Kusang Sherpa and Latho Dorjee. Dr. A.K. Yadav, SDO, presided over the function and MLA Gaulan Lepcha was the guest of Honour.

The function began with the felicitation of ex-Sumians who were presented "Life Membership Citations". The oldest alumnus of SUMI, Banshidhar Dixit from Kuresong, was also felicitated on the occasion.

Students from various schools in the sub-division were felicitated for securing first division marks in Madhyamik. The award for Madhyamik toppers from the subdivision were presented to Sunit Gupta (78.3%) of St. George's H.S. School, and Priyanka Baraily (79%) of St. Philomena's School. Ashwin Chettri (78.2%) from SUMI was also felicitated for securing the highest percentages from the institution.

In the Quiz Competition St. Joseph's Convent bagged the first prize for the second consecutive year, followed by SUMI and Rockvale Academy who were tied in the second position.

In his speech, Jamling Norgay lauded the organizers for the event. "Such Merit awards are a source of inspiration for the students. I also appreciate the theme of the quiz which centered around the Everest. It will hopefully inspire the youngsters to carry on the legacy of the Everest". He said.

## NO MORE KHOLIS PLEASE SAYS KALIMPONG POLICE

In order to avoid a repeat of the Kholi episode, the Kalimpong Police has requested citizens of the town to report the presence of any suspicious new comer to their locality, to the Police station. The Police has requested the general public to remain alert to the presence of any new faces in town and if any suspicious movement of any stranger is not noted the Police be notified of the same.

It may be recalled that Mahindrapal Singh Kholi had remained unnoticed in Kalimpong for several months before he was apprehended after his photograph was painted in the media.

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# POETRY COMPETITION ON BASHA DIWASH

To celebrate the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "Basha Diwas", the Kalimpong chapter of the Nepali Sahitya Adhyan Samity had organized a poetry recitation competition. The competition held as a project under the B.P. Koirala Indo- Nepal foundation was held at the Centenary Hall of Kalimpong Girls High School on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. Nepali language was included in the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Indian constitution on this very day in the year 1992.

The contest was held as a sub-divisional level one. The winners of the contest will participate in a district level competition which is to be held at the Kalimpong Town Hall on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 04 where three participants each from Kalimpong, Darjeeling, Kurseong and Doars will contest for the winners prize.

In a highly absorbing competition where participants recited their self written poetries, twelve schools of the Kalimpong sub-division took part. In total 24 participants participated in the contest which was ultimately won by the Prativa Nepal of Girls High School. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prize was won by Shyam Subba of Kumudini

Indo Tibetan High School. The list of all those who participated in the contest is-Chandra Prakash Sharma and Martina Rai of Kagay High School, Sanjay Rai and Pram Kumar Saha of Ambick High School, Lalita Gurung and Pradip Rai of Pagan Gurba High School, Sudarshan Pandey and Praveesh Sing of St. Augustine School, Navjita Sherpa and Sushma Sharma of Pranami School, Gagan Gurung and Shyam Subba of Kumudini Homes, Suraj Chettri and Chandru Chettri of Teesta Bridge High School, Saraawati Rai and Srila Lepcha of Jublee High School, Suchitra Chettri and Kush Kumar Subba of Government High School, Smita Pradhan and Prativa Nepal of Girls High School, Dora Tamang and Shoba Tamang of Indo Tibetan High School and Anpita Chettri and Pranay Kalden of Saptashree Gyan Piath.

The judges for the contest were Mr. Dev Bhandari, Mr. Mti Prasad Sharma, Mr. Hem Chandra Subba, Mrs. Sudha Gurung, Mrs. Sanurati Rai and Mr. Suhir Chettri. Mr. P.R. Pradhan former Headmaster and a doyen of education in Kalimpong was the chief guest for the programme while Mr. M.B. Pradhan presided over the programme. Mr. Prem Pradhan, Headmaster of Government High School was a special invitee along with Mr. Kumar Chettri and Mr. Amit Khaliag.

## KAZI LENDUP DORJEE HONOURED

Kazi Lendup Dorjee the first chief minister of Sikkim, has been honoured by the Chamling Government with the Sikkim Ratna Award. This Award was conferred by the Sikkim Government on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August 04, was handed over to the aging leader on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August by the chief minister of Sikkim Mr. Pawan Chamling. Mr. Chamling visited the Kalimpong residence of Mr. Kazi to personally hand over the award. The veteran leader is the first recipient of this award which is highest such award in Sikkim. The award carries a medallion, citation and cash award of Rs 5 lakhs.

It may be recalled that Kazi Lendup Dorjee who is considered the father of democracy in Sikkim was awarded the Padma Vibhushan by the Central Government earlier this year.

The citation that was presented to the 102 years old leader states "In recognition of his exemplary contribution to the state of Sikkim, the state Government hereby confers on Padma Vibhushan Shri Kazi Lendup Dorjee Khangsherpa, the decoration of Sikkim Ratna on the occasion of Independence Day 2004."



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# MOBLIE MANNERS

BY BHANU BARAL

How often have we heard of the saying, “Good servant but a bad master???” These sleeks looking wonders of modern technology called Mobiles or Cell phones are in my opinion the latest claimants to the undisputed title of “the best servant but the worst master.”

Times have changed so have human needs and tastes according to the dictates of changing times. Times now dictate that every human is easily communicatable and locatable – hence we have the tiny little attractively coloured wonder boxes called Mobiles. Kalimpong too is moving along with these changing times and like all major modern town and cities here too in the town every Tom, Dick & Harry now wields a mobile set, whether or not it is of any use to him/her.

Mobiles seem to have become the latest fad and at first sight, the impression that any outsider would get is that they are indispensable to the town residents. On the opposite spectrum is the fact that the village folks in far flung areas of the sub division do not even have basics like electricity, forget about telephones. A town like ours has PCO’s in each and every street corner but still Mobile phones still rule supreme and my guess is that the sole reason behind this being that Mobiles are now more of a status symbol rather than a necessity.

It is a common sight in town seeing smug looking cell phone owners using their mobiles ambling down the Main Road or in restaurants or

even while traveling in any public transport. Everyone of these mobile users seem so busy that one would be tempted to think that Kalimpong is the busiest place in the world. Are we really so busy???

I recall an incident of the recent past where I was invited to be a delegate in an important seminar on Education in the Hills. The seminar was participated by several stalwarts and illustrious figures in the field of education in the hills. As soon as the seminar got underway, mobile ring tones from the several Cell phone owners present started to reverberate round the hall. There were interruptions after interruptions till the point that it crossed all level of tolerance. Finally the chairperson of the seminar had to humbly request all mobile set owners to either switch their phones off or leave the hall. This led me to conclude that “mobile phones really need to be taught some manners.”

In fact I have also purchased a mobile set but I rush to defend myself here by stating that I had to purchase it under compulsion. The compulsion is that my Telephone warrants regular repairs. It permanently seems to remain “*presently out of order, kindly try after sometime.*” At times the frustration that I have with my telephone is such that I want to officially declare my phone as dead and arrange for a funeral for the same. One particular day, after a hard days work I reached home tired and weary hoping to find that few hours of peace and quiet that



actually arouse such a strong explosion of my wife’s feeling. I was right. My wife threw open the telephone bill that she had received that afternoon which asked us to pay a sum of almost Rs. Three thousand for use of the dead telephone. “Look at this exorbitant bill for something we have not even used for such a long time,” she thundered. Having soothed up my tangled up nerves after a cup of hot black tea, my wife made a suggestion, “Why don’t you buy a mobile set so that we are no longer at the mercy of the fixed line telephone and so that we can avoid such exorbitant telephone bills”, she said. I agreed with an immediate “Great Idea”, partly out of fear of another outburst from her and partly because I actually believed that it was a great idea. So the next morning, I was given my first Mobile hand set but the problem with people like me



who have lived life in a different era is that we are always ill at ease with the modern day gadgets. I felt lost and like a dud trying to learn how to use my latest acquisition. Despite being coached like a Class II kid by the seller of my new hand set and my youngest daughter on how to use the handset, I was still unable to use it the way it should be used. I all seemed Greek to me provoking another sharp tongued member of my family to lash out, "This is ridiculous, in these modern times of electronics and computers you are behaving like a nincompoop." This made me realize that maybe I really was acting like Mr. Beans – but then



I take solace in the fact that despite Mr. Bean's stupidity he at times is ingenious. Anyway now, after a slow but steady process of learning, I can at least this new 21<sup>st</sup> century marvel called the cell phone.

Then one fine day on the suggestion/ order (whatever you may call it) of my wife, I found myself inside a cinema hall of the town to see the movie *Main Hoon Na*, much of this picture having been shot in

Darjeeling. We had front row seats and the hall was packed like sardines. No sooner had the picture started that mobile phones started to ring from every nook and corner of the hall pondering me to once again think how busy Kalimpong was. Did the film have a strong story line?? How about the songs?? What about the directorial aspect or for that matter the editing or cinematography of the film??? I just could not find out for the simple reason that I was too busy turning my head all around listening to various ring tones of the mobile phones constantly ringing inside the hall. In between I could also hear sentences like "Don't put too much oil in the *sabji*", "Did you go to the party", and so on and so forth.

All this led me to realize that *Hum kisi Aur Town Se Kum Nahai*". But the stigma of the stings of bedbugs fleas and other insects inside the cinema hall reminded me that I still be-



long to the good old Kalimpong even if mobile phone users are increasing in geometric progressions. One thing is certain, Cell phones may be a necessity, Cell phones may just be a status symbol, Cell phones may be the marvels of today's science, but they certainly need to be taught some manners!!!





# DOCTORS ARE DEVINE

By B.R.Rai Chamling

The ancient aphorism - 'I treat, He cures' is in reality coined in heaven, bearing the symbol of devotion, self-less service, sacrifice and humility, the rudiment of Geeta and upheld by the staunch followers of Sushruts, legend of Materia Medica, nevertheless, a superfluous dictum as viewed by the knowingly unknown charlatans!

What our religious scripture speaks is that there are altogether one hundred and eight varied maladies as willed by Nemesis to this mundane universe. Mercy may be bestowed upon one by the generous Aesculapius and Hygein, provided one's suffering falls within the categories of one hundred and seven. But, it becomes a hell to escape from the clutches of the last eight fateful one when even the benevolent Apollo remains a passive onlooker to the destined sufferer.

While segregating it, the last eighth one is termed as "Karmic Roga" or "Destined Roga"- the consequences of one's evil-doings committee in one's previous life

and hence remains incurable, while the others are "Byoharic Roga" or "Physical Roga" i.e. the outcome of one's leading a negligent way of leaving in the present life and thus becomes curable.

To begin with, our sole daughter suffered from such an odd disease from her childhood that even a journey of the shortest distance by any mode of automobiles would befall her so seriously that she would fall unconscious after frequent vomiting accompanied by severe giddiness. All treatments available in both the locality and out side as well were of no avail. Having no rays of hope in her case, we jumped to the conclusion that it was her karmic roga. Disability of this kind in such modern age, where living would be almost unthinkable without availing of the advanced mode of transport system, we couldn't even imagine of giving her in marriage, for the prevailing disease would stand in her way to leading a healthy conjugal life. She used to weep and curse to herself foreseeing a doomed life.

All at last, our prayer was heard by the almighty. Her marriage was fixed all at once; but

the fear of bidding her goodbye by a car was lurking in our mind and as such, had to pass sleepless nights until the scheduled day approached.

It so happened that a niece of ours was then serving as an assistant to a seasoned doctor in his clinic in the town. Our daughter was conducted by her there.

After a through examination, she was advised to take a kind of medicine in tablet-form, one of it had to be administered to her one day before the day of the journey, to be followed by one, after food, half an hour before riding the vehicle.

Accordingly, we sent her off to her new house after strictly adhering to the doctor's prescription. However, we were wondering as how she would have a comfortable



Cont. in page 18

# FURORE OVER MANINDRA PAL'S CONFESSION

**By Jacob Shen**

Maninder Pal Singh Kholi, resident of Punjab and London based NRI, alias Mike Davis in Kalimpong, lived a fugitive's life. He was on the run after killing 17 years old Hannah Foster of Britain. He turned into a limelight criminal after Mr Foster offered around Rs 400,000/- for his capture. Without the bounty on his capture, he was happily settled with his 'second' wife in Kalimpong. We know that many such killers are elusive, happily living in hiding. The truth is few can afford bounty as hunting booty. As soon as Manindra Pal was apprehended out popped forty or more sleuths laying claim for the reward. It is only indicative of what money power can do. Without motivation few really care about the jobs they are entrusted.

Maninder turned into some sort of celebrity as lengthy reports about his capture hit the headlines. The eyes of Kalimpong and indeed quite a few in India were glued to the TV sets to know the update on his capture, heaving a sigh of relief, 'Serves him right - at last!' But suddenly the TV crew gasped as they turned to interview him while he made a public confession. A day later furore broke over his confession.

If we were to step inside his shoes, we would be left with two 'do-or-die' options. Either we could cough up the truth or suppress them. Maninder chose the former. As it is, publicity of such magnitude and consequence could be crippling for any of us; and he has suffered as much humiliation for his ghastly act.

What is the punishment for

sin? It is death. In fact, any sin brings us face to face with the spiritual and potentially more dangerous death in hell (If some believe in one). Naturally, no one will live forever, and death is only around the bend, the price of original sin. But here was a sin worth Rs 40 lakhs with nations behind it! It was a sin of the most heinous kind. But first let us analyse the cause.

Sins come through temptations. Without temptations we could be faultless ourselves, but we are not either. For very often we too fall into temptation. It is not an autosuggestion to encourage but rather pointedly to express that God gave us a Free Will not to perpetuate evil and get into hell, but to be good and get back to Him.

Now how many families in the world have done or are doing just the contrary who have not had incest, or nor raped their own loved ones? These victims' voices are muted for sheer shame and the blemish they carry may be exposed, worse when families are put to shame, what's more the fear of reprisal is real, sometimes even inviting death! These cases are not booked where temptations abound just around the nook and corner of many a house for that matter.

How many innocent, helpless babies are aborted each hour and for whose fault are they condemned to die? Who should be punished or condemned, the child or the parents who perpetrate the crime? Yet we cry out justifiable reasons to kill our very own. The 'justifiable' reasons are:

1. Population control. But not control over passion!
2. A living beyond one's means; claiming that we are unable to sustain more than two children. Whereas, everything else can be within means: cars, TV, buildings, land and properties, industries, good jobs, wealth and all that we have own. One of these or all of these we can afford. Most of the well-to-do support this, whereas, the illiterate have many children and yet they survive and some still climb the ranks!

People air about family planning and what are pills but poison to kill in the womb! What are contraceptives but means of strangulating our own children. Where is justice where is love? And now will we hang Dhanraj Chatterjee leave the rest?

Maninder too fell headlong into this trap called temptation. Worse after the act he realised that this could threaten his image. His wife and children would come to know of this should Hannah would expose it. So he pleaded with Hanna not to expose him, but Hannah would not change her conviction. When it dawned on him that this line had been stretched too far, he chose to stifle it. This is what he has confessed. He knew it was a crime and blood was upon his hand so he went into hiding. No one goes into hiding unnecessarily without a reason. Maninder is (probably) remorseful for the act and was afraid of the consequence. That was why he ran and did all that he could to conceal himself. What if any one of us would be in his shoes? Would we allow ourselves to be counted as



sadistic serial killer? Would we not disguise and make a dash for safety or make ourselves invisible if possible? Maninder did as much, but could not evade detection. Yes, he could have turned himself over to the police then and saved himself all the embarrassment. But this was the alternative that clicked in his mind.

Maninder also confessed that there is God to whom he is accountable, as much as he is to justice. What more can anyone expect of him other than him accepting the verdict. Here, with his confession, is a muted plea for leniency that cries out from the core of his heart. He cannot express it, as such, many cannot do so when faced with a dilemma. In fact, when confronted by laws and its proceedings it becomes confusing for the common man that even politicians and kings quaver at it. Some lose their sense of balance and keep heaping lies upon lies to cover up their deeds. And as many innocent people are falsely indicted and jailed because they simply cannot express in technical terms and give satisfactory reasons to save themselves. Even if they do they may not be heard. If only they knew the law and the bylaws and the loopholes, they could perhaps find a way out. Perhaps, perhaps!

Howbeit, the confession Maninder made public has become unofficial and has raised a furore. What made the Indian judiciary suddenly sullen and the British so secretive so as not to allow any broadcast to be made there? It looks as though his confession is questionable or even totally unacceptable! Was it that Maninder had perpetrated yet another crime by his confession? Was he hiding an ace up his sleeve perhaps regarding some accomplice(s) or some

twists in his story that they look for!

However, he has accepted the verdict even though it is not pronounced, come what may – even death. Is that not enough, what more do they want?

All said and done is that whisper from his heart – ‘I desire clemency!’ Can you feel it?

If we cannot forgive those who hurt us, God too will not forgive us. After all, what wrong has he done to any of us personally, that we should condemn him? “Who are you to condemn. Leave all judgement to Me.” says the Lord.

We are not one to condemn, but we can ask for clemency or leniency. His death will not bring Hannah Foster back to life. Should we be critical about his criminal look on the TV? What kind of look did you expect they expect to find on him? A look on the face can be very deceptive, ‘never judge a person by his look,’ is the dictum of an old adage. But should Maninder’s remorse be true, that would be the most pleasing thing to God. (Lu 15 : 4) ‘There will be much rejoicing over one lost sheep, than the ninety nine that never got lost.’ But for us doubters we can keep on doubting even till the end of the world and hold on to our guns.

Dhananjay Chatterjee was another who was tempted to do wrong and should similarly be forgiven if he is guilty. Those who do wrong should be forgiven, or else ‘forgive’ will be a redundant word and can be conveniently struck off from all the dictionaries of the world! Or do we not need to be forgiven? So do unto others what you want them do unto you.

His family members are seriously grieved by the verdict and had even threatened to commit sui-

cide, if Dhananjay is not given a reprieve. God forbid that anything of this kind should happen to them or to us. But the 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2004 cannot be marked not as a day of blessing or rejoicing. Even contemplating to do away with life itself is a blemish to the joy of the Independence Day that followed immediately after. Indeed law reigned supreme, but LOVE was defeated. Our resolve to love, i.e., to tolerate, forgive and be merciful has fallen victim to hate. If what his lawyer claims to be true then indeed the law is at fault for killing an innocent man. His lawyer even sought reprieve on his death sentence as he thought it was incomplete without DNA test. This would firmly establish his innocence. Dhananjay maintained till the very end that he was innocent. Was the law not too peremptory in its decision?

It is God who creates life and it is He who will claim it, do we have the right?

Let us pray at least one ‘Lord’s Prayer’ and or the ‘Mercy Prayer’ for the release of those innocent truck drivers who have been held hostages in Iraq, and for those who languish falsely jailed. Let us pray for clemency for the hardened criminals and for justice and truth to prevail. Let us choose the culture of life, not the culture of death! And pray that these sins will not be reflected on us or on our own. That these sins will cease completely. Surely we would not want it to be continued, would we? Everything is possible in prayer – believe it and it will come true sooner or later.

What else can we do? Are we concerned? Even one person can make a difference. And prayer is the most powerful weapon against sin. \*\*\*\*\*

# Cartier - The craftsman of Light

BY PRAVIN MOKTA N

## The intermediate somewhat between a thought and a thing (S.T Coleridge)

The photographer with his camera is a unique specimen of modern civilisation. He straddles both Science and Art, and in a wonderful collaboration between the two, creates visual signatures that outlive the moment and sometimes even its memories. In a wonderful split second interplay between light and chemical, can be captured, the true essence of an instant. A photograph is a capsule of time, a fossil in film for the future; to be decoded and deciphered, to be relished or regretted. It is an interaction at many sublime levels. Between what is and what the eye of the shutterbug sees or chooses to see. Between what the eye sees and what the science of the lenses can trap. It is also a conjugation of the energy of light and the chemicals that respond to its many-layered vibrations. What happens at that precise moment when time is captured; locked away as an irreversible change in the way atoms and molecules are arranged is a mystery that is as compelling as the open, honest, simplicity of a candid snapshot.

When we think about it there is in fact nothing that can be called the present. What you have just read is already gone, stored away in the corridors of your short-term memory for immediate recall, an exercise that is so necessary to make sense of the sequence of events that we call reality. A photograph in that sense is the present. It is the only visual document that freezes time in that microsecond that it takes for light to make that necessary marriage with the film and leave its signature.

The photographer is a unique in-

dividual precariously existing in that thin line that divides the high science of his equipment with the high art of his craft.

A relatively young art (photography is a modern Art although Mo-Ti the Chinese philosopher of the 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC reportedly identified the basic optical principles, of what high school students now learn of, as the pinhole camera and the astronomer Johannes Kepler in 1609 suggested that a convex lens be used to collect light in the device that he termed as the "Camera Obscura". Although the optical aspect of the camera was worked out as early as the dates mentioned it was the chemical, duplication facet of photography that had to wait until more recent times for its development) it was not received well by portraitists who felt their domain threatened by an upstart that apparently seemed to have the wherewithal to make sit-ins redundant. Indeed the camera had a certain egalitarian promise about it. Anyone could photograph anything and succeed at doing so at a level "as well as the author of the invention" was how the first Daguerreotype was announced. Some even had moral qualms about what photograph could or promised to do. A editorial rused," The wish to capture evanescent reflection is not only impossible...but the mere desire alone, the will to do so is blasphemy. God created man in his own image, and no man made machine may fix the image of God. Is it possible that God should have abandoned His eternal principles, and allowed a Frenchman ...to give to the world an invention of the

Devil?" Thankfully such reservations were swept away as successive improvements in camera equipment and duplication techniques made it eminently more accessible to the masses.

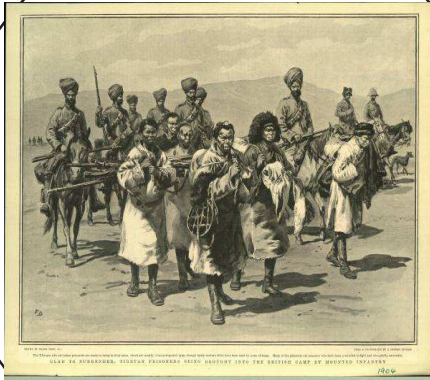
It was therefore a historical inevitability that a genius would come along that would lift this new invention and give it the status of an Art. Indeed there have been many pioneers of photography that lent ever-greater respectability to this discipline. Marc Riboud, Gary Winogrand, Sebastio Selgado, Mary Ellen Mark, Aswin Gatha, Man Ray, Raghubir Singh and Raghu Rai are the present and past practitioners of photography who have added many dimensions to the Art.

However the name that stands out, as the photographing icon of the modern times is that of Henri Cartier-Bresson. Henri Carter-Bresson was born in Chanteloup , outside Paris in August 22,1905. At a very young age he was exposed to the writings of Proust, Joyce, Dostoyevsky and Rimbaud. Under the influence of his painter uncle whom he called "my other father" he began to train as a painter as a teenager. His teacher was a conservative French painter, Andre Lhote, who sought to connect modern art with the great traditions of French paintings. French Art however was undergoing an upheaval with avant-garde movements such as surrealism pushing the aesthetic and psychological boundaries of Art. It was against

**Cont .on page 19**

# Recalling Kalimpong

By Dr. S.B.Wangyel



The district headquarters may be on the other side of the tista but Kalimpong has been in many ways the political capital of the district. The GNLF's inspiration may have come from elsewhere but the spark that metamorphosed it into a movement came from Kalimpong. The Gorkha league that held political sway over the district for decades was very much a child of Kalimpong. Whether it was the homespun politics or the presence of loftier political faces Kalimpong was always abuzz. Nari Rustomji taking us back to the 1950s and referring to Jigme Dorji, the first Prime Minister of Bhutan, commented, "Jigme was schooled in India and had opportunities of meeting a wide variety of people, as Kalimpong was in those days a center of attraction for foreigners interested in political, ethnical,

botanical and other branches of Himalaya research."1 The famous writer Sunnada Datta-Ray elaborates: "Nehru had called Kalimpong a nest of spies. Chinese Communists saw it as the command center of British imperialism. ... Kalimpong was once the world's pot-pourri. ... The thirteenth Dalai Lama had found asylum there. So had relatives of the deposed king Theebaw of Burma. Elderly Afghan princes who had fled Kabul with king Amanullah could still be seen in the weekly market. Prince Peter of Greece and Denmark and his wife, Princess Irene, were said to be studying Himalayan flora (correction: polyandry and witchcraft)... Sir Tashi's sister, Rani Chuni, had retired to Bhutan House, a Tartar prince brought memories of the court of St. Petersburg. A neglected villa was pointed out as having once been Rabindranath Tagore's home. In another house had lived the Hungarian (correction: Russian) painter Svetoslav Roerich and his Bengali actress wife, Devika Rani. Some residents had no known Denis Conan Doyle, the son of the creator of Sherlock Holmes. ..Emissaries from Sikkim, Bhutan, and Tibet used to gather their long before Kalimpong became British territory in 1865."2 More recently Kazi

Lhendup Dorji and Kazini Elisa-Maria Langford-Rae Dorji found Kalimpong eminently suited to push forward their political ambition. I quote: "As her (Kazi Elisa) entry into Sikkim had been banned by the Chogyal, she operated from Kalimpong, a sub-divisional headquarters of Darjeeling district in India. ...her house in Kalimpong became the operational headquarters for the movement launched in April 1973. All major decisions and important meetings of the Joint Action Committee would take place there."3

1 Nari Rustomji: BHUTAN

The Dragon Kingdom in Crisis, Oxford, 1978, p.10.

2 Sunnada K. Datta-Ray: Smash and Grab, Annexation of Sikkim, Vikas Publishing House P.Ltd, New Delhi, 1984, p.111.

3 B.S.Das: The Sikkim Saga, Vikas Publishing House P.Ltd, New Delhi, 1983, p.94.



# Annexation of Kalimpong area of Sikkim

(EXTRACTED FROM THE COMPENDIUM OF DOCUMENTS)

According to "Gazetteer of Sikkim" and "Gazetteer of Darjeeling District", "The Deb Raja of Bhutan invades Sikkim in 1700 A.D., overran Sikkim and seized the palace of Rabdentse and held the country for some five to eight years (1700-1708A.D.). They built forts at Ondgophodang near Pakhyong, at Takse-gong and Namgyal Tempoo. However, under the pressure of Tibet administration and on the Raja's return the Bhutanese retired and evacuated all the area of Sikkim west of Tista, but they retained Fort Damsong and all the tract between the present Sikkim border and Taigon pass including Darling-cote, Jonksa and Sangbe, which in those days were richly cultivated.

Thus, the present Kalimpong sub-division area of West Bengal, the bulk of the area commonly known as "Man-Loong-Kha-Bzi" area of Sikkim was annexed by Bhutan in 1700 A.D.

However, "The British India invaded Bhutan in 1864, and the British force captured Bhutan fortresses, and the whole of the Duars was completely occupied by the middle

## FACTS ON KALIMPONG

of January, 1865. In November, 1865 a treaty was executed under which the Bhutan Duars, with the passes leading into the hills were ceded to the British. The whole of the Bhutia possessions in the plains thus became British area and a slip of hill territory lying on the east-

ern bank of the Tista (Kalimpong area annexed from Sikkim) was interposed between Bhutan and Sikkim. However, in 1866, this tract which now forms the Kalimpong sub-division, was also added to the District of Darjeeling. Thus, the Kalimpong area of Sikkim annexed by Bhutan in 1700 A.D.



expressions !!!

expressions

**MOMENTOGETHER****By Kreetee Rai**

(Dedicated to the St. Joseph's Convent  
from a proud X-Josephite)

Only memories are left behind  
Faded memories of different kind  
To recall and say for every  
The best days of all the era.

With images blurred in mind  
But love unesteemed at heart  
How could softly slip away  
With memories have I to stay?

Your smile like the rising sun  
It never to be forgotten  
You were the light of my life  
But now darkness is all I find.

You seem to go so far away  
Alas! I can never reach for you  
Only time can heal all the wounds  
As with memories I have to stay.

**All Alone****By Pratik Rai, Pedong**

Life itself is alone and  
Bonded with tears  
Streaming which cannot show.

Death pills to darkness  
Darkness where not even  
A trace of light shines  
However heart tries to  
Get out its sorrows!!

**LOST IDENTITY****BY SACHIN BHUSAL**

The voyage of life  
Has brought me here  
The troubles of life  
Has fetched me here  
With a lost identity.

Feels so hard  
To loose the identity  
Seems so hard  
To get back the lost glory.

All the hard work  
Of building my identity  
From the early days  
To the present day of my life  
Has lost its way!!

I look here  
I look there  
Panicking for my identity  
Which seems to disappear  
In the smoke that I've caused.

The shadows of smoke  
Hides my identity  
The deepest of holes  
Drown my identity.

The frownness of my mind  
Searching for identity  
The hollowness of my soul  
Hungry for identity.

The lost identity  
Haunts me day and night  
It brings one back to life  
A lost identity  
Is all that I have!!

Well it was not as bad as we had thought it would be!!! At least one person could manage to answer correctly all the questions on Kalimpong that this contest asked in the last issue.

The correct answers to the questions asked last issue are-

1. Mr. Damber Singh Gurung
2. Mr. D.A.White
3. 11<sup>th</sup> November 1865
4. 12<sup>th</sup> November 1962
5. 15<sup>th</sup> May 1915

And the only person who got all the above answers correct is **Ms. Angela Bhujel** of 8<sup>th</sup> Mile, Kalimpong. Congratulation Angela, please collect your prize from our office. This issues questions on Kalimpong are-

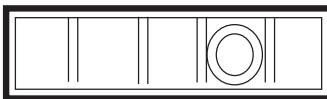
1. In which year was the Blind School started?
2. When was the foundation stone for the stupa at Dharmodaya Vihar laid?
3. Who started Kalimpong Home Industries( Industrial School)?
4. In which district was Kalimpong before being attached to Darjeeling district?
5. Who was the second Principal of SUMI?

**Answer the above questions correctly and rush in your answers in a plain sheet of paper along with the coupon given below to win a sleek Parker Vector Pen courtesy Ad-Venture Creations, Kalimpong. Your entry must reach us by 8<sup>th</sup> September**

2004  
quiz quiz quiz quiz quiz quiz  
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# jumble jumble

**NISUS**



**LAJABIA**



**ETTTIPAI**



**PATOGLEY**



**UMIRHUGKIA**



(HINT: MEDICINAL PLANTS)



Complete the above Jumble and send in your entry with the coupon given below by the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 2004 to win a free lunch for two at **Soods Garden Retreat**, Kalimpong. The winner will be decided by a draw of lots.

The correct answer to the Jumble published last week is-

**DUMSI, KHARAYO, MULSAPRO, NINGALAY,**

**LOTHARKAY, & NAURI MUSA**

The names of all those who sent in correct entries for the jumble published in the last issue are-

Sudarshan Pandey, Mithiles Baraily, Theupden Lepcha, Damber Singh Gurung, Angela Bhujel, Deepika Tamang, Pratoksha Pradhan, Prem Tsh. Lepcha, Miss C. Lepcha, Subhankar Shivakoty, Tika Raj Tamang, Neha Kaul, Sunil Chemzong, Christina Rai, Mrs. S. Pariyar, Shalini Rai, Bandana Blon, Stephanie Pradhan, Priyanka Lama, Yangzom Bhutia, Mamta Tamang, Umashankar Poudyal, Nirmal Thapa, Anita Rai, Santosh C. Pradhan, Partha Raichamling.

& the winner is-

**Miss Sritika Chettri of Dr. Grahams Homes**

jumble  
coupon



## Doctors are Devine cont from page 10



journey of such a long distance!

Desperately, we were awaiting the information of the party's reaching the destination, while the phone rang at 8p.m., bringing us a miracle! Our daughter was in high spirits without having been victimized by the die-hard parasite all the way through. After three days, the couple returned to our place and still then, she was found to have been hale and hearty. She was ecstatic to enjoy a motor-car ride so freely and painlessly for the first time in her life! However, it remained enigmatical on our parts as yet, apprehending that it was mere a transitory boon upon her and soon the oppressor would take its turn.

The couple headed towards Bangalore as scheduled, undertaking a week-long taxi and train journey and finally reached Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh. We again received a call at 3p.m. to find our jubilant daughter narrating as how the journey was joy-

ful!

So, we concluded that the ailment was not karmic to her. The couple has virtually settled there with a newly born loving baby-daughter. What a divine succour upon her!

We were eager to extend our heartfelt thanks to the physician whose divinity helped in saving our daughter. Fortunately, we met him on his way back to the town-chamber from the hospital. Approaching him, we submissively

reminded him of how his prescription finally did such a miracle, for which he had even ignored the normal fee. While walking, he said- "Oh! Now I remember, the case of your daughter? Well! to speak the truth, it was a result of my personal frantic research to find a panacea for overcoming this type of travel-sickness exclusively for my sister-in-law. The magnitude of her sickness was so intense and woeful that she was to be hospitalized putting her under drips for some days, allowing her to regain normal sense, whenever circumstances compelled her to use automobiles. The sight of her plight

was almost unbearable to the members of our family and as such, after series of sincere efforts and experiments, the remedy was found out eventually. Now, she enjoys a perfect health and to her, journey on wheels has become a regular feature. A relief for good!"

At this, we tried to imagine a holy image of the lucky sister-in-law, though yet unseen and unknown and mentally thanked her for her being so instrumental to compel her brother-in-law doctor in finding a solution to break the bondage of such an adamant allergy. But for her, the research would apparently have remained undiscovered, for it is natural as how equally obliging and affectionate we brothers-in-laws are towards our sister-in-law, treating them as our own sisters or daughters, more so than our own better halves!

Out of profound gratitude, we dared address to him- 'so, Doctor Saheb! You are divine!!' 'Oh! no!!, it is not that, I only treat, it is He who cures!' - said he, raising both his index finger and head simultaneously upwards in the sky above! What a lesson of humility!!!

And, (if I am privileged to disclose so), he is no other than our divine Doctor S.S.Ali of Kalimpong.





### Cartier .. a craftsman...

the backdrop of such profound times that Bresson seriously took to photograph in the late 1920s. In photography he discovered a medium that he felt he could do justice to in contrast to the awkward works that he produced during his forays into painting. In the great tradition of poets such as Rimbaud the wanderlust in him took him on his first journey to Africa where he spent a year hunting and taking pictures until a bout of blackwater fever forced him to return. Cartier-Bresson continued to roam during the early-to-mid-'30s, from Paris through Eastern Europe, Spain, Italy, Morocco, Mexico and the United States. Inspired by Surrealist notions of "automatic writing" and intuitive action, coupled with a growing interest in African cultures and art, he began to make photographs of everyday activities as if drawing in a sketch. Cartier's genius lay in the unobtru-

sive manner in which he approached photography. He always dressed simply and played the passive observer. Even the chrome parts of the camera were black-taped to make it less noticeable. Cartier also had the knack of being in a place at a time of historical profundity. He was captured during the Second World War when he had enlisted himself in the French military as a photographer and escaped only in his third attempt. He was also in India at that historically overwhelming moment of our Independence. His picture of Nehru and Lady Mountbatten sharing a joke while her husband stands at their side in an awkward acknowledgement of what is going on behind his back is a telling reflection of the times and is a picture that marries the profound with the trivial. His "Behind the Gare St. Lazare", 1932, a man jumping through a puddle, judged by TIME as the photograph of the century is a masterful composition where in

its jazz-like synecdoche of an instant, everything seems to have its own separate entity and yet contribute so harmoniously to the whole without looking for a moment either contrived, rehearsed or artificial. To have brought all those aspects of light and shade, time and place, imagination and reality, and then presented in a visual treat that is the picture, is truly the hallmark of a supreme genius who gave a small insight into his method when he very famously said, "as I photograph with my little Leica, I have the feeling that there is something so right about it. With one eye that is closed one looks within. With the other eye that is open one looks without."

Isn't that what a truly great artist really does? Whether it is with a brush or a pen or a camera one looks within and then without.

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### On the Contributors

**Mr. Pravin Moktan**-is a teacher of Physics in St. Augustines School.

**Mr. Bhanu Baral**- is the Headmaster of Kumudini Homes.

**Mr. B.R.Rai Chamling**- is a highly respected writer in the Nepali language.

**Dr. S.B.Wangyel**- is a Jaigoan based writer who is considered an authority in the history of the region.

**Mr. Anup Moktan**-is a young college student who is a correspondent of this magazine.

**Mr. Rajdeep Pradhan**- is a chef who has worked the world over in some of the top hotels.

**Mr. Jacob Shen**- is the Principal of St. John's School.